

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1509, MEDICARE IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION ACT OF 2011

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1509, the Medicare Identity Theft Prevention Act. There has been longstanding bipartisan support—led by Ways and Means Members LLOYD DOGGETT and SAM JOHNSON—for removing Social Security numbers from Medicare beneficiary cards. A similar bill passed the House all the way back in 2008, but the Senate failed to act. No progress has been made on this issue in the intervening years.

That said, I must express concern about violating regular order in bringing this bill to the floor today. There are technical edits that we believe are important to make before it is signed into law. Unfortunately, because it didn't move through the committee process, such changes are impossible under the suspension of the rules.

Removing Social Security numbers is one step to protecting beneficiaries from identity theft. The Social Security number is especially valuable to identity thieves as it serves as the key to authenticating an individual's identity in order to open accounts or obtain other benefits in the victim's name. Identity theft can be particularly devastating to seniors because their incomes are so modest.

We have held hearings on these issues and our Members have voted for these protections numerous times. No one can question our commitment here. But I would urge that we work to make sure that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration are provided appropriate funds for such a large undertaking as its been the cost and complexity which has held up this issue for so long.

The Social Security number is printed on the Medicare card beneficiaries carry in their wallets. It is used for communication between the beneficiary and Medicare, providers billing Medicare, enrollment transactions with Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare prescription drug plans, and communications within and between Medicare's 50 internal information systems and between Medicare and the Social Security Administration.

This is not as simple as printing new cards as some would lead us to believe. It requires revising numerous computer systems as well as significant beneficiary and provider education. And, there are serious risks to beneficiaries' access to care and out-of-pocket costs if mistakes are made.

The cost will likely be in the hundreds of millions. Yet, the Medicare agency and Social Security Administration have been underfunded by Republicans for years. They are working with minimal administrative budgets. This bill improves on the 2008 legislation passed with bipartisan support because it pro-

vides funding. But we must make sure that the funding is sufficient and that both the Medicare agency and Social Security Administration equitably access these funds.

TRIBUTE TO THE BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE RENEGADE FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bakersfield College Renegades, who captured the 2012 California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCA) State Championship in football on December 8, 2012.

Winning this championship was truly a team effort on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball. But this thrilling victory was the product of months of skill, hard work, and unequivocal determination to win from every player, coach, and support staff—from summer practices, to winning the first game of the season against Santa Ana College, to defeating City College of San Francisco in the championship game, 35–14. Overcoming obstacles early in the season, this team practiced consistency and perseverance throughout the rest of the season to cap off an amazing 11–2 record, winning games by an average margin of over three touchdowns.

This championship is also a milestone for Bakersfield College, winning its first CCAA state championship in football and paving the road for future victories. From the first game of the season at Memorial Stadium, our community has been 100% behind this football team, packing the stadium with roaring crowds, especially the championship game at home.

Above all, what makes this achievement so special has been the players' appreciation for each other as they fought hard for victories this season, never losing sight of their ultimate goal—the CCAA state championship. Players often said they never lost faith and kept pushing each other to ensure win after win. Embodying the team concept, when running back Jalen Sykes, the team MVP, received his trophy after the title game, he handed it to another teammate saying, "This is for the offensive line."

I commend Renegade head coach Jeff Chudy and his coaching staff for their leadership and ability to mold this winning team. Coach Chudy brought all the players together so each one not only knew his individual responsibilities, but also knew of the importance of how the sum of each player's individual role cohesively formed a unit to successfully execute play after play, to win the day and ultimately the season.

As a former student at Bakersfield College, I join our community in congratulating the coaches and players for their achievement. The 2012 Renegade coaching staff includes:

Head Coach Jeff Chudy, Defensive Coordinator/LB's Reggie Bolton, and Offensive Coordinator/QB's Carl Dean. The 2012 CCAA State Championship Renegade football team includes: Mercy Maston, Brian Burrell, Curtis McGregor, Franklin Simmons IV, Grant Campbell, Brock Martin, Robert Burns, Chris Hannible, Juan Carbajal, Kelyon Hollis, Aaron Kolb, Austin Tijeriana, Shannon James, Alfonso Jackson, Jr., Cody Jones, Daniel Cherry, Cole Murry, Chaz Adams, Hamid Camara, Sterling Fuggett, Tyler Schleicher, Joey Stuart, Donny Siewell, Walter Hunt, Brock Baize, Kwame Johnson, Jalen Sykes, Ryan Salinas, Salim Cleghorne, Mason Often, Keith Fingers, Daviyoun Golden, Osvaldo Sombo, Jim Leathers, Bruce Volaski, Zack Puente, Curtis Fainter, Brandon Tillman, John Oglesby, Beau-Riley Pearson, Kevin Boyer, Jorge Villarreal, Alex Cortez, Dominic Rutherford, Brodie Scott, John Christie, Josh Ringer, Braylen Lejander, Jordan Alvarez, Justin Verrell, Christian Barrios, Kenneth Dunston, Donovan Rutherford, Brandon Sarabia, Arturo Patino, Joseph Jaurez, Julio Regla, Ricardo Figueroa, Justin Wallace, Christian Soto, Hilberto Flores, Sebastian Prince, Leonel Del Toro, Ever Mondragon, Tyler Fries, Darryle Baker, Tim Martinez, John Palacios, Mike Dunn, Ron Douglas, Stewart Bandy, Hernan Rocha, Thomas Hearn, Tanner Melson, Dandy Hannible, Clinton Carter, Onosai Sotoa, Jacob Miller, and Randy Armstrong. On behalf of our proud community, Go Gades!

HONORING ALLEN SHORT

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 27, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Mr. Costa, to acknowledge and honor Allen Short, General Manager of the Modesto Irrigation District, who is retiring on December 31, 2012 after 22 years of service to the agency that provides water and power to thousands of farms, homes and businesses in the San Joaquin Valley of California.

During the past two decades, Mr. Short also has been a leader among the Central Valley's other publically owned water and power agencies, spearheading efforts to develop agreements to meet environmental goals for the San Joaquin River system and the Bay-Delta estuary while protecting and enhancing the Valley's economically critical water and power resources.

Modesto Irrigation District and the neighboring Turlock Irrigation District hold some of the oldest water rights in California. The two Districts jointly own Don Pedro Dam and Reservoir on the Tuolumne River. MID provides irrigation water for 59,000 acres of farm land, electricity for more than 113,000 retail accounts, and treated drinking water to the City of Modesto.

Prior to becoming General Manager in 1993, Mr. Short joined MID as its first Chief of

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